

NUPC Database

Steve Porter, Steve.Porter@fns.usda.gov, 703-305-2721

Existing Database - Current Status

- **Two fully functional environments**, One for test and one for production
 - 101 user accounts in test and 8 user accounts in production
- **Approximately 8300 individual items** with an associated Product Description
 - 3300 Price Look Up (PLU) codes which have preloaded by FNS for use with fresh fruits and vegetables
 - and 4900 individual Universal Product Codes (UPC's) uploaded by the State of Kentucky
- **State agencies have the ability to:**
 - generate a baseline set of products offered by National and Regional retailers,
 - add products which are not already included in the database,
 - and subsequently create an Authorized Product List (APL) in the standard format prescribed by ANSI X9.93.
- **FNS planned to import Authorized Product Lists (APL's)** from seven State agencies
 - Import delayed as previous contractor attempted to reconcile differences in Categories & Subcats
 - There are approximately 17000 unique UPC's authorized by seven SA's and 85% of those items are fresh fruits and vegetables
- **State agencies have been reluctant** to utilize the NUPC database in production

Existing Database - Issues

- **System Access is difficult** (eAuth account required)
- **Labor intensive** for State agencies
- **Data collection** requires significant effort prior to adding products
- **Nutritional information** (ie “fast facts label”) is not provided
- **Data formats vary widely** across State agencies
- **Lacks a file transfer capability** for use between retailers & multiple SA’s
- **User support is limited** as a result of contract management issues

Future Modifications & Expansion

- **New System will be implemented with six tasks under a master contract**
 - **An Acquisition Planning and Support contractor** will assist with requirements definition and prepare procurement documents
 - **A software development contractor** will modify or rebuild the NUPC database allowing us to include nutrition facts, ingredients, allergy information, and special processing characteristics
 - **A data integrity contractor** will act as a single point of entry for incoming data and will populate the database with nutritional information, ingredients, allergy information, special processing characteristics and photographs
 - **An M&O contractor** will host the NUPC system in the cloud (private sector), accomplish recurring system administration tasks, provide user support, implement software changes, and create documentation.
 - **A file transfer agent** will provide a single point of connection, or “clearinghouse” capability, to facilitate file transfers between State agencies and their Authorized Vendors
 - **A QA contractor** will verify service levels are met and data is complete/accurate

Future Modifications - Implications

- Responsibility for data entry will be shifted from SA's to the data integrity contractor
- SA's will retain responsibility for determining product eligibility but data integrity contractor will compare product attributes to minimum federal requirements.
- SA's will be required to submit very few data elements to the NUPC database for each authorized food
- SA's will be encouraged to utilize the National Category and Subcategory table
- SA's will be required to provide their Authorized Product List (APL) to the "WIC EBT Clearinghouse"
- Retailers will maintain only one connection to transfer all files between themselves and multiple SA's
- Nutritional information will be provided for each product in the database (but not fresh fruits and vegetables)
- The following information will be searchable: nutrition, ingredients, allergies, gluten content, special processing (ie. Kosher or Halal), medical diagnosis for formula, and all standard product identifier fields.
- A subset of NUPC data will be made available for public access

Future Modifications – Timeline

- **Acquisition Planning & Support contractor** – September, 2011
- **Development & Data Integrity Contractors** – December, 2011
- **M&O contractor** – January, 2012
- **QA contractor** – February, 2012
- **Initial Operating Capability** – April, 2012
- **File transfer (“clearinghouse”) contractor** – April, 2012
- **Public Access** – August, 2012
- **Initial Clearinghouse Capability** – October, 2012
- **Fully Operational** – December, 2012